

and returned to their people to call them towards the oneness of Allah and faith and they gave them good tidings as well as a warning.

The story of their listening to the Prophet (peace be upon him) has been recorded by al-Bukhari and Muslim on the authority of ibn Abbas. Ibn Abbas reported that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) departed with some of his companions, intending to go to the bazaar at Ukaz. At that time, there had been obstruction between the devils and the news from the heavens. And flames were being hurled at the jinn. Therefore, the jinn went back to their people and were asked about what had happened. They answered, “Some barriers have been put between us and the news from the heavens.” They said, “This could only happen due to some important event. So go to the eastern parts of the earth and its western parts to find out what has happened to cause these barriers between us and the news from the heavens.” They did so. A group of them proceeded to Tihama which is a palm grove close to the fair of Ukaz. At that time, the Prophet (peace be upon him) was leading his Companions in the dawn prayer. When the jinn heard the recitation of the Quran, they said, “Listen to it.” Then they said, “This is what has caused the barriers between us and the news of the heavens.” They returned to their people and said, “O our people, we have heard a marvelous Quran that guides us to the straight path and we believe in it.” Then Allah revealed to His Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him),

قُلْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ أَنَّهُ اسْتَمَعَ نَفَرٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ

“Say; It is revealed to me that a company of the jinn listened...” (*al-Jinn* 1). Allah revealed to the Prophet (peace be on him) what the jinn had stated

The delegation from the jinn

The incident mentioned above was the first time that the jinn became aware of the message of the Prophet (peace be upon him). They listened to the Quran without the Prophet (peace be upon him) being

aware of their presence. A group of them believed in it and went back to their people to spread the message.

After that incident, a delegation of the jinn met with the Prophet (peace be upon him) to gain some knowledge from him. The Prophet (peace be upon him) gave them an appointment and met with them and taught them what Allah prescribed for them and he read the Quran to them and informed them of the news of the heavens. This latter incident occurred in Makkah before the Prophet's migration to Madina.

Muslim, in his *Sahih*, and Ahmad, in his *Musnad*, recorded from Alqama that he had asked Abdullah ibn Masud if anyone had accompanied the Prophet (peace be upon him) on the night that the Prophet (peace be upon him) met with the jinn. Ibn Masud said, "No, none of us did. But we were in the company of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) that night in Makkah and we missed him. We searched for him in the valleys and the hills and said, 'He has either been taken away [by the jinn] or has been secretly killed.' He said, 'We spent the worst night which people could ever spend. When it was dawn we saw him coming from the direction of Hira'a. We said, 'Messenger of Allah, we missed you and searched for you but we could not find you and we spent the worst night which people could ever spend.' He [the Prophet] said, 'There came to me someone inviting me on behalf of the jinn and I went along with him and recited to them the Quran.' He said, 'He then went along with us and showed us their traces and traces of their embers.' They [the jinn] asked him about their food and he said, 'Every bone on which the name of Allah is recited is your provision. The time it will fall in your hands, it would be covered with flesh. And the dung of the camels is fodder for your animals.'" And in al-Tabari's narration from ibn Masud, "I stayed one night reciting to the jinn at a place called *al-Hujoon* [in Makkah]."

From among the verses that he recited to them was *surah al-Rahmaan*. In another hadith, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "I read it [*surah al-Rahmaan*] to the jinn on the night of the jinn and they had a better response to it than you did. When I came to, 'Which of the

favors of your Lord do you deny?’ they responded with, ‘There is none of your bounties, o Lord, that we deny. And for you is the praise.’”

That was not the only time that the Prophet (peace be upon him) recited to the jinn but such meetings were repeated a number of times afterwards. In his commentary to *surah al-Ahqaaf*, ibn Katheer records various hadith in which the Prophet (peace be upon him) met with the jinn. In some of these hadith, it states that ibn Masud was very close to the Prophet (peace be upon him) during such a night.

In a hadith recorded in *Sahih al-Bukhari*, there is the description of some jinn from a place called Naseeb in Yemen visiting the Prophet (peace be upon him). Al-Bukhari recorded from Abu Huraira that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

أَتَانِي وَفْدٌ جِنٌّ نَصِيبِينَ وَنِعَمَ الْجِنِّ فَسَأَلُونِي الزَّادَ فَدَعَوْتُ اللَّهَ لَهُمْ أَنْ لَا
يَمُرُّوا بِعَظْمٍ وَلَا بِرَوْثَةٍ إِلَّا وَجَدُوا عَلَيْهَا طَعَامًا

“A delegation of the jinn of Naseeb [a part of Yemen] came to me- and how nice these jinn are- and asked me for provisions. I supplicated to Allah for them that they would never pass by a bone or dung of an animal except that they would find food upon it.”

The jinn preaching to the humans

In some of the authentic hadith there are reports that some jinn played a role in guiding some humans. In *Sahih al-Bukhari*, it is recorded that Umar ibn al-Khattab asked a man who used to be a diviner during the days of ignorance about the most amazing thing that his female jinn had ever informed him of. The ex-diviner told Umar, “One day she came to me in a state of fright. She said, ‘Have you not seen the despair of the jinn and their defeat [i.e., from listening to the news in the heavens] and, therefore, they now only follow the camel riders.’” Umar said, “Such is the truth.” I was sleeping near some idols and there came a

¹ This was recorded by al-Bazaar, al-Haakim and ibn Jarir with a *sahih* chain. See al-Albani, *Sahih al-Jaami*, vol. 1, p. 30.